



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor
John Hoeven
Governor

PROCLAMATION
SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH
April 2004

WHEREAS, non-stranger and stranger rape and sexual assault affects women, children and men of all racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, while women, children and men suffer multiple types of sexual violence, it is estimated by the Bureau of Justice Statistics that over 70 percent of assaults are never reported to the police; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the immediate physical and emotional costs, sexual assault may also have associated consequences of post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, major depression, homelessness, eating disorders and suicide; and

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the dedication and contributions of the individuals who provide services to survivors and work to increase the public understanding of this problem; and

WHEREAS, the state coalition and local crisis centers across the state are committed to increasing public awareness of sexual violence and its prevalence, and to eliminating it through education and partnerships among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, allied professionals, and victim services; and

NOW, THEREFORE, as the Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim April 2004, **SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH** in the state of North Dakota.

/s/
John Hoeven
Governor

Attest:

/s/
Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State